

PRESS RELEASE NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Today, the Norman Police Department learned that persons have circulated emails suggesting that a serial rapist is active in our community. The information contained in the emails is not accurate; there is no credible reason to believe that a serial rapist is operating in Norman.

During the Labor Day weekend, a local agency noticed a possible pattern associated with alleged sexual assault cases; representatives contacted police to report their observations and concerns. Subsequently, investigation division supervisors assigned several detectives to research the group's concerns and conduct case reviews of the relevant reports. In an effort to determine if any relationship existed among the cases identified by the agency, police took the following actions:

- Discussions and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies that work within Norman;
- Interviewing all available persons involved in these cases.

Ultimately, after involving six police detectives in the reviews and expending more than 150 man-hours, police determined that no evidence existed to support any relationship whatsoever among the cases or the contention that Norman has a serial rapist. In fact, further investigation reveled that victims in some incidents identified did not report their allegations to police, and further investigation by detectives confirmed that no sexual assaults occurred in those incidents

Unfortunately, even one sexual assault is too many in any community, but the members of Norman Police Department are committed to carrying out their responsibility to investigate all criminal allegations in a thorough and objective manner. The department is grateful for the information provided, and we encourage anyone with information on this or other crime trend to contact us.

Release by: Captain Tom Easley, 366-5216 Under the Authority of Keith L. Humphrey, Chief of Police

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